



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

December 5, 2003

RE: UNITED STATES v. STEVEN ROBERTS

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced that Steven Roberts, 42, of Buffalo, New York, pled guilty today before United States District Judge John T. Elfvin to one count of theft from an interstate shipment, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 659. The maximum penalty is ten years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney MaryEllen Kresse said that from April 2000 to February 2003, Roberts was one of two employees of Bellville Rodair International ("BRI"), an international freight forwarding company located in Tonawanda, New York. ATI, a Canadian manufacturer of computer graphics cards, used BRI to ship computer graphics cards to retail operations throughout the United States. ATI also used BRI as a return depot for returned graphics cards from these retail operations. During the relevant time period, Roberts stole over \$400,000 of computer graphics cards from returned shipments that he was supposed to return to ATI in Canada. Roberts then sold the stolen computer graphics cards via eBay.

The guilty plea grew out of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter Ahearn, and the United States Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Assistant Inspector in Charge Thomas Shipley.

Sentencing for Roberts is scheduled before Judge Elfvin on March 26, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

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